

Older Adults in Prisons

The past decade has seen a dramatic increase in the number of incarcerated elderly, due to mandatory minimum sentencing, longer sentences, and tighter parole policies. Corrections officials recognize that the cost of maintaining older prisoners is nearly triple that of other inmates, primarily due to the expense of health care. Poor living conditions in prison, inadequate medical treatment, and prior lifestyles (which accelerate aging and medical conditions) make older prisoners a unique population with special pre-release considerations. Solutions include the establishment of private medical prisons, early release of non-violent, low-risk older offenders, and the exploration of alternatives to incarceration. The following are links to demographic data, excerpts from descriptive and analytical reports, and news articles on federal and state initiatives, which address this growing national problem.

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Overviews and Definitions

Dealing With Older Prisoners (Power Point)

(University of Michigan)

[http://www-instruct.nmu.edu/criminal_justice/LZupan/Dealing With Older Prisoners.ppt](http://www-instruct.nmu.edu/criminal_justice/LZupan/Dealing-With-Older-Prisoners.ppt)

The Graying of the Prisons (June 9, 2002)

(Los Angeles Times)

<http://www.ebonyshowcase.org/garyreeves/graypris.htm>

Older Prisoners (undated)

(New York State Department for the Aging)

<http://aging.state.ny.us/explore/project2015/briefs04.htm>

Growing Old in Jail (audio)

(WBUR)

<http://www.wbur.org/special/prison/elderly.shtml>

Statistics

Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2002

(Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin)

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pjim02.htm>

(number of inmates in State or Federal prisons and local jails, by gender, race, and age)

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics (2001)

(search “index” and “tables and figure list” using keyword “age”)

(University of the State of New York, Albany)

<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>

Prisoners in 2001

(see tables 14, 15, and 16 - Sentenced prisoners by gender, race, Hispanic origin and age.)

(US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics)

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/p01.htm>

Justice Research and Statistics Association

Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs)

<http://www.jrsa.org/sac/index.html>

State Statistical Centers

Florida State University

(includes SAC addresses)

<http://www.criminology.fsu.edu/cjlinks/info.html> - state

State Developments

State Correction Departments

(Law Enforcement Agency Resource Network)

http://www.adl.org/learn/additional_resources/resources_correction.asp

California

Elderly Inmate Population and Costs to Soar, Experts Say

(Contra Costa Times)

<http://www.cdaa.org/3StrikesCCNews0203.htm>

California Struggling with Growing Numbers of Elderly Prisoners

(June 2002)

(Global Action on Aging)

<http://www.globalaging.org/elderrights/us/CAprisons.htm>

Colorado

Statistical Report, 2003

(see Adult Inmate Population “age and gender”)

(Colorado Department of Corrections)

http://www.doc.state.co.us/Statistics/7_General_Statistics.htm

Florida

Incarcerating Elderly And Aging Inmates: Medical And Mental Health Implications

(Florida Department of Health)

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/cma/reports/agingreport.pdf>

Florida's Supervised Population - Monthly Status Report (April 2003) Table 14 - Community Supervision Offender - Population Demographic Characteristics

(Florida Department of Corrections)

<http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/spop/0304/tab15.html>

Details on Prison Population (# prisoners Age 55 and over) (January 2003)

(Florida Corrections Commission)

<http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/pop/monthly/index.html> - details

Number of Younger Inmates Declining as Number of Older Inmates Increases

(2000-2001 Annual Report)

(Florida Department of Corrections)

http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/annual/0001/stats/ip_young_old.html

Georgia

Georgia's Inmate Population Graying (2003)

(Georgia Department of Corrections)

<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/PublicRelations/PressReleases/html/2003jul25.html>

Georgia's Aging Inmate Population

Offender Statistics (click on "By Age")

(Georgia Department of Corrections)

<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/OffenderStatistics/asp/offenderstatsselect.asp>

Georgia Parolees by Current Age (December 2003)

(Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles)

<http://thelmalou.pap.state.ga.us/pls/web/WebSiteReports.ParoleCurrentAge>

Elderly inmates swell Georgia's prison rolls, add to medical costs

(Online Athens 2000)

http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/120400/new_1204000018.shtml

Illinois

Adult Institutions and Community Correctional Centers

(Includes Tables on Age of Offenders in 2000)

(Illinois Department of Corrections)

http://www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/reports/humanservplans/hsp2000_4.pdf

Kentucky

Profile of Inmate Population - All Institutions - January 2003

(includes # inmates age 50 and over)

(Kentucky Department of Corrections)

http://www.cor.state.ky.us/facts_n_figures/profile2003.pdf

Louisiana

Geriatric Inmates Costly Liability, Officials Say (2003)

(The Advertiser)

<http://www.acadiananow.com/news/html/C787E661-9DAE-40A2-804C-990E704A7AAA.shtml>

STATshot –The Geriatric Prison Population (March 2001)

(Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections)

<http://www.corrections.state.la.us/PDFs/02-Office%20of%20Adult%20Services/STATShot%20GERI.pdf>

Maryland

Aging Offenders and the Criminal Justice System (August 2001)

(Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy)

<http://www.msccsp.org/publications/aging.html>

Minnesota

Adult Inmate Profile Information as of 1/1/00, unless noted

(Minnesota Department of Corrections)

<http://www.corr.state.mn.us/statistics/adultprofile112000.htm>

Should Elderly Prisoners Be Released Early?

(Minnesota Department of Administration)

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/nyet/nyged01.html>

North Carolina

Statistical Abstract Query (Database Search Engine – age 50 and over a category)

(North Carolina Department of Correction)

http://crmis42.doc.state.nc.us/cgi-bin/hsrun.exe/crmis42haht/SimpleAbstractQuery/SimpleAbstractQuery.htx;start=HS_AbstractSubmit

New York

Project 2015: The Future of Aging in New York State. Brief – Older Prisoners

(New York Department for the Aging)

<http://aging.state.ny.us/explore/project2015/briefOP.pdf>

Ohio

Older Offenders: The Ohio Initiative (2000)
(Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections)
<http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/planpub9.html>

Oklahoma

The Aging of Prison Populations: Directions for Oklahoma, by Michael Wheeler, Michael Connelly, and Beverly Wheeler (undated)
(Oklahoma Department of Corrections)
<http://www.doc.state.ok.us/DOCS/OCJRC/OCJRC95/950725a.htm>

A Concern in Corrections: Special Health Needs By Pete Doughty (undated)
(Oklahoma Department of Corrections)
<http://www.doc.state.ok.us/InsideC/IC9611/ic961103.htm>

Tougher Sentencing Guidelines, Longer Life Expectancy Among the Major Causes in Aging of Prison Population (undated)
(Oklahoma Department of Corrections)
<http://www.doc.state.ok.us/INSIDEC/ic9711/ic971102.htm>

Pennsylvania

Older Inmates
(Pennsylvania Department of Corrections)
<http://www.cor.state.pa.us/programs4.html>

Tennessee

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2001-2002
(see felony admissions by age, admissions, and releases by age)
(Tennessee Department of Corrections)
http://www.state.tn.us/correction/pdf/report_01-02.pdf

Texas

Elderly Inmates (ages 55 and Over) in the Prison System
(Texas Department of Criminal Justice)
<http://www.cjpc.state.tx.us/stattabs/programs/02Programinformationsection6.pdf>

Statistical Summary – Fiscal Year 2002 (age category 60+)
(Texas Department of Criminal Justice)
http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/publications/executive/stat_summary_fy02/stat_summary_fy02_institutional_div.htm - Hist.%20Offender%20pop.

Develop More Effective Methods of Dealing with Special Needs Inmates
December, 2000

(e-Texas)

<http://www.e-texas.org/recommend/ch11/psc04.html>

Canada

The Graying of Our Prisons. Frail, Aging, Cons Cause New Woes for Prison System (June 2000)

(Canada's Internet Network - CANOE))

<http://www.canoe.ca/DunlopAwards/ka061700.html>

Managing Older Offenders: Where Do We Stand? (May 1998)

(Correctional Service Canada)

http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rsrch/reports/r70/r70e_e.shtml

Articles and Reports

Aging Inmates Present Prison Crisis (2003)

(USA Today)

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-08-10-prison-inside-usat_x.htm

As Prisoners Age Should They Go Free? (2003)

(Global Action on Aging)

<http://www.globalaging.org/health/us/prisoners.htm>

One Strike Against the Elderly: Growing Old in Prison (August 2002)

(Medill News Service)

<http://www.medill.northwestern.edu/docket/01-1127aging.html>

Older Offenders, Substance Abuse, and Treatment

(American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry)

<http://ajgp.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/abstract/10/6/733>

Incarceration of the Terminally Ill: Current Practices in the United States A Report of the Grace Project (March 2001)

(U.S. Department of Justice)

<http://www.nicic.org/pubs/2001/017053.pdf>

KELN Bibliography: The Quality of Care of Elderly Inmates in Prison Joshua Maker J.D. Kansas (May 2000)

<http://www.keln.org/bibs/maker2.htm>

Geriatric Inmates, July/August 2000

(Correctional News)

<http://www.correctionalnews.com/cn/archives/ja2000/feature3ja2000.html>

Federal Prisons. Containing Health Care Costs for an Increasing Inmate Population, April 2000

(U.S. General Accounting Office)

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/gg00112t.pdf>

Revisiting the Literature on Prisoners Who Are Older: Are We Wiser?

(Louisiana School of Social Work)

<http://www.socialwork.lsu.edu/dyeson/SW7403/Older Inmates Manuscript.pdf>

Behind Bars - Aging prison population challenges corrections

(July 1999)

(Nurse Week/Health Week)

<http://www.nurseweek.com/features/99-7/prison.html>

US - Cellblock Seniors -Media Awareness Project)

Time Magazine

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v99/n653/a12.html>

The Graying of America's Prisons: An Emerging Corrections Crisis

(Angelfire)

<http://www.angelfire.com/fl3/starke/elderly.html>

Resources

Aging and Prison Bibliography

(National Association of Social Workers)

<http://www.nwsa.org/agingbib.htm>

Managing Aging and Terminally Ill Inmates

(National Institute of Corrections)

<http://www.nicic.org/Resources/supplemental/PubDetails.aspx?recordID=219>

Project for Older Prisoners (POPS)

George Washington University Law School

<http://www.gwu.edu/~ccommit/law.htm>

University of Michigan Law School

<http://www.law.umich.edu/JournalsandOrgs/pops.htm>

Tulane University Law School

<http://www.law.tulane.edu/tuexp/studentorg/studenttemplate.cfm?orgID=11&act=>

The Cost to Care for Elderly Inmates

(Health and Nutrition Directory)

http://www.audionews.us/dir/the_cost_to_care_for_elderly_inmates/index.shtml

Elderly Issues Bulletin Board

Corrections Connection Bulletin Board

<http://database.corrections.com/bulletins/results1.asp?SubjectID=5>

National Prison Hospice Association

<http://www.npha.org/>

BMC: 12/03/03

Center for Communication and Consumer Services

U.S. Administration on Aging

Tel. 202-619-0724

FAX 202-357-5723

Internet: <http://www.aoa.gov/>

Email: AoAInfo@aoa.gov